Instructions

Fashion Mate

Zig-Zag Sewing Machine/Model 257

SINGER

Congratulations!

As the owner of a *Fashion Mate** zig-zag sewing machine/Model 257 by SINGER, you are about to enter a wonderful new world of sewing. From the moment you begin to sew on your *Fashion Mate* sewing machine, you will be delighted with its easy, dependable operation.

SINGER service is always close at hand. If your machine should need servicing, call your local Singer Sewing Center to be sure of warranted SINGER* parts and service. You will find the address under SINGER in the telephone directory.

Among the many fine features you will enjoy are:

- *Zig-zag stitching for buttonholes, mending, stretch, and decorative stitching*
- *Drop-in front bobbin for easy, quick bobbin replacement*
- *One-way needle clamp so you cannot put the needle in backwards*

Form 712 (1271)

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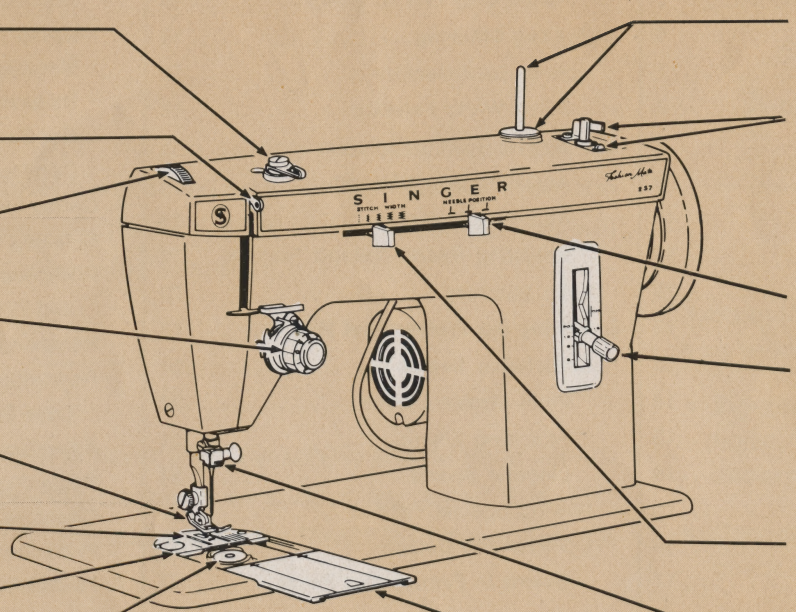
Contents

1. Getting to Know Your Sewing Machine . 2
Principal Parts and What They Do 3
Accessories 6
2. Getting Ready to Sew 7
Choosing Needle and Thread 7
Threading the Machine 8
The Bobbin Thread 8
The Needle Thread 11
3. Straight Stitching 13
Setting Selectors 13
Adjusting Selectors 13
Presser-Foot Pressure 13
Setting Stitch Length 14
Regulating Thread Tension 15
Sewing a Seam 16
Pin Basting 16
Starting a Seam 16
Keeping Seam Straight 17
Turning Square Corners 17
Guiding and Supporting Fabric 18
Reinforcing End of Seam 18
4. Zig-Zag Stitching 19
How to Set Selectors 19
Stitch Width Selector 19
Needle Position Selector 19
Adjusting Stitch Length 19
Adjusting Pressure 19
Adjusting Needle-Thread Tension ... 19
Satin Stitching 20
5. Sewing the Professional Way 21
Stretchable Seams 21
Plain Stretch Seams 22
Attaching Elastic 23
Lingerie Seams 24
Sewing Special Fabrics 25
Construction Details 27
Seams in Fabrics that Ravel 27
Buttons and Buttonholes 28
Decorative Satin Stitching 30
Applique 30
Keeping Up Appearances 31
Mending a Tear 31
Blanket Binding 31
Bar Tacks 31
Darning 32
6. Caring for Your Sewing Machine 34
Cleaning the Machine 34
Removing Face Plate and Throat Plate 35
Removing and Replacing Bobbin Case . 36
Removing and Replacing Carrying Case Base and Top Cover 37
Adjusting the Belt Tension 38
Replacing the Slide Plate 38
Changing the Light Bulb 39
Performance Checklist 40
7. Fashion* Aids 41
Index 44

1 Getting to Know Your Sewing Machine



1. Bobbin-Winder Tension Disc
2. Take-up Lever
3. Pressure Dial
4. Needle-Thread Tension Dial
5. Presser Foot
6. Feed
7. Throat Plate
8. Bobbin
9. Spool Pin and Felt
10. Bobbin-Winder Spindle and Lever
11. Needle Position Selector
12. Stitch Length Selector
13. Stitch Width Selector
14. Needle Clamp
15. Slide Plate

principal parts— and what they do

1. **Bobbin-Winder Tension Disc** regulates thread tension for winding.

2. **Take-up Lever** controls flow of needle thread.

3. **Pressure Dial** regulates presser-foot pressure on fabric. It has an all-purpose setting plus settings for extra-light and extra-heavy pressure, and for darning.
   - **To increase pressure,** lower presser foot and turn dial from **NORM** toward **MAX.**
   - **To decrease pressure,** lower presser foot and turn dial from **NORM** toward **DARN.**
   - **For darning,** lower presser foot and turn dial to **DARN.**

4. **Needle-Thread Tension Dial** lets you select just the right tension for your fabric, thread, and stitch. The numbers eliminate guesswork in duplicating settings.
   - **To increase tension,** turn dial to higher number.
   - **To decrease tension,** turn dial to lower number.

5. **Presser Foot** holds fabric against feed.

6. **Feed** moves fabric as it is being stitched.

7. **Throat Plate** has guidelines to help you keep seams straight.

8. **Transparent Bobbin** shows thread supply; easily removed for winding.

9. **Spool Pin and Felt.** Pin holds thread spools of various sizes. Felt helps thread unwind smoothly.

10. **Bobbin-Winder Spindle and Lever** let you wind bobbin quickly and easily.

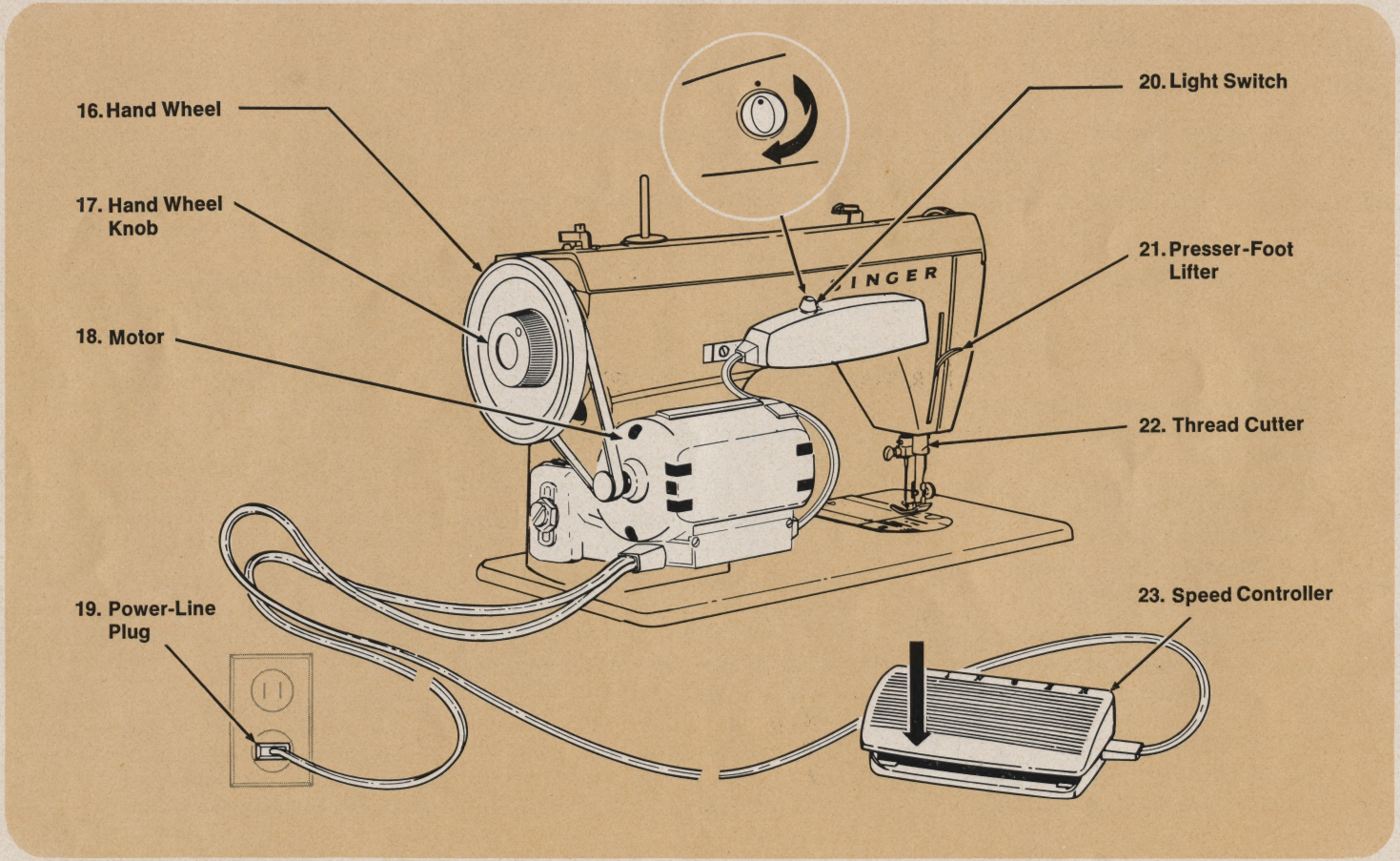
11. **Needle Position Selector** places the needle in either (left), (center), or (right) stitching position.
   - **To set,** raise needle to highest position and slide lever to desired setting.

12. **Stitch Length Selector** controls length of both straight and zig-zag stitches, and lets you stitch forward and in reverse. The numerals represent the number of straight stitches per inch: the higher the number, the shorter the stitch. The **FINE** area is used for zig-zag satin stitching.
   - *To stitch in reverse,* raise the selector as far as it will go. Lower selector for forward stitching.

13. **Stitch Width Selector** controls width of zig-zag stitching, and sets the machine for straight stitching.
   - **To produce a zig-zag stitch,** raise needle to its highest position and slide lever from the straight stitch setting (┆) to desired width setting.

14. **Needle Clamp** holds needle and is designed to eliminate possibility of inserting needle backwards.

15. **Slide Plate** opens for easy removal and replacement of bobbin. Seam guidelines (extended from the throat plate) have crosslines to help you to turn square corners.


16. Hand Wheel
17. Hand Wheel Knob
18. Motor
19. Power-Line Plug
20. Light Switch
21. Presser-Foot Lifter
22. Thread Cutter
23. Speed Controller
SINGER

16. **Hand Wheel** positions take-up lever and needle. *Always turn it toward you.*

17. **Hand Wheel Knob** engages hand wheel to sewing mechanism. Loosen knob for bobbin winding.

18. **Motor** furnishes driving power to operate the machine.

19. **Power-Line Plug.** Before inserting plug into your electrical outlet, be sure that the electrical information stamped on the motor conforms to your electrical power supply.

20. **Light Switch** turns on sewing light.

- **To turn the light on,** simply rotate switch clockwise.

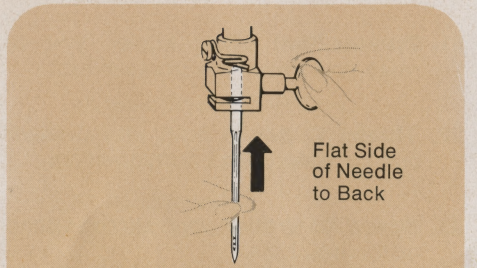
CAUTION: Before changing needles, presser feet and throat plates, disconnect power line plug from the electrical outlet. It is also advisable to disconnect the power line plug when leaving the machine unattended for extended periods. This eliminates the possibility of starting the machine accidentally by pressing the speed controller.

21. **Presser-Foot Lifter** allows you to raise and lower the presser foot.

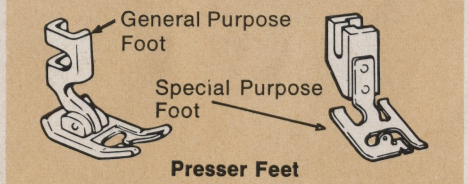
22. **Thread Cutter** is built into presser bar for safety and convenience.

23. **Speed Controller** controls the speed of the machine.

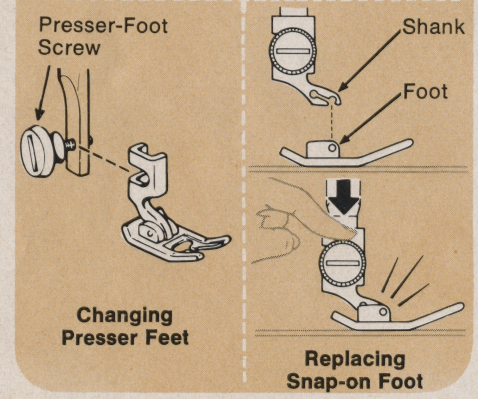
- **To run the machine,** press the speed controller (or knee lever). The harder you press, the faster the machine will sew.



Changing the Needle



Presser Feet



Changing Presser Feet

Replacing Snap-on Foot

accessories

The accessories that come with your sewing machine are designed to help you do many kinds of sewing easily and perfectly. Additional accessories, listed on page 41, can be purchased at your Singer Sewing Center.

1. BOBBINS

- One transparent drop-in bobbin in place in your machine.
- Three extra transparent drop-in bobbins.

  Additional bobbins may be purchased at your Singer Sewing Center. Ask for transparent bobbin No. 172336.

2. NEEDLES

- Needle, catalog 2020 (15x1), in your machine.
- Additional needles, with your accessories:
  Catalog 2020, for all-purpose sewing.

Changing the Needle

1. Raise needle bar to its highest position, loosen needle-clamp screw, and remove needle.
2. Insert new needle in clamp *with flat side to the back*; push it up as far as it will go. Tighten needle-clamp screw.

3. PRESSER FEET

- **General purpose foot** that comes on your machine is the "snap-on" type and is used for both straight and zig-zag stitching. Should the foot become detached from its shank, simply lower the presser bar so that the shank opening fits over the hinge pin in the foot and press down on the presser-foot screw, as shown at left.
- **Special purpose foot** for decorative zig-zag stitching.

Changing Presser Feet

1. Raise needle to its highest position and raise the presser foot.
2. Loosen presser-foot screw and remove the foot. (It may be necessary to remove the screw when changing the special purpose foot.)
3. Position new foot around the presser bar and tighten presser-foot screw.

4. THROAT PLATE RAISING PLATE

(See page 33).

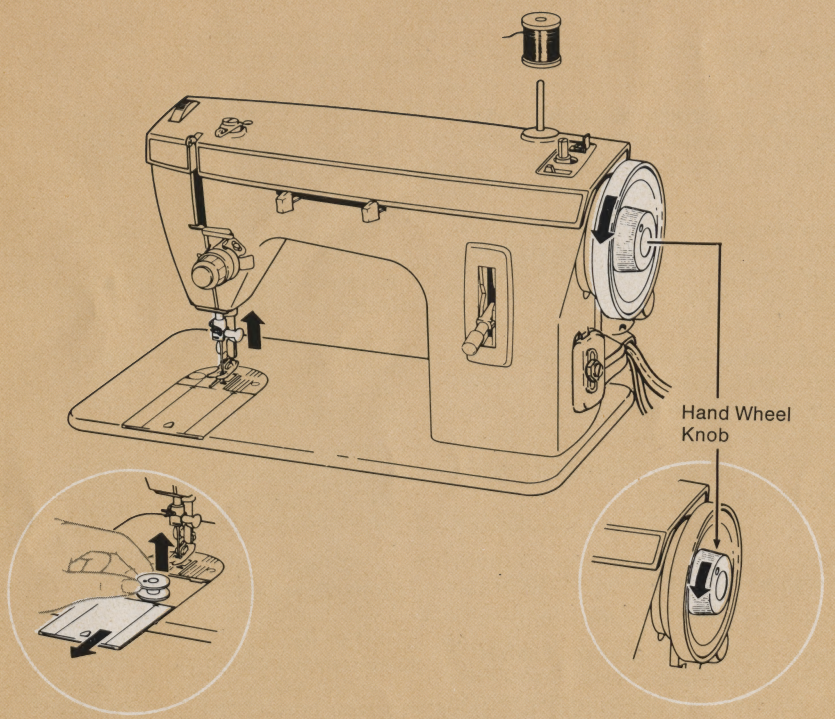
2 Getting Ready to Sew

choosing needle and thread

The needle and thread you choose will depend upon the fabric being stitched. The table at right is a practical guide to needle and thread selection. Refer to it before starting a sewing project. Be sure to use the same size and type of thread in both needle and bobbin.

Fabric	Thread	Needles	
		Type	Size
Delicate – tulle, chiffon, fine lace, organza	Fine mercerized cotton Fine synthetic thread	Catalog 2020 (15x1)	9
Lightweight – batiste, organdy, jersey, voile, taffeta. crepe, chiffon velvet, plastic film	50 mercerized cotton "A" silk Synthetic thread Polyester core/cotton	Catalog 2020 (15x1)	11
Medium Weight – gingham, percale, pique, linen, chintz, faille, satin, fine corduroy, velvet, suitings, knits, deep-pile fabrics, vinyl	50 mercerized cotton 60 cotton "A" silk Synthetic thread Polyester core/cotton	Catalog 2020 (15x1)	14
Medium Heavy – gabardine, tweed, sailcloth, denim, coatings, drapery fabrics, vinyl, deep-pile fabrics	Heavy-duty mercerized cotton 40 to 60 cotton Synthetic thread	Catalog 2020 (15x1)	16 18
Heavy – overcoatings, dungaree, upholstery fabrics, canvas	Heavy-duty mercerized cotton 24 to 40 cotton Synthetic thread	Catalog 2020 (15x1)	16
All Weights – decorative top stitching	"D" silk * (Buttonhole twist)	Catalog 2020 (15x1)	18
Synthetic Knits and Stretch Fabrics – polyester doubleknit, nylon tricot, jersey, spandex, ciré tricot, panné velvet	"A" nylon 50 mercerized cotton "A" silk Polyester core/cotton	Catalog 2045 Bail Point (Yellow Band)	14
Leather – suede, kidskin, capeskin, lambskin, lined leathers	50 mercerized cotton Synthetic thread "A" silk Polyester core/cotton	Catalog 2032 (15x2)	11 14 16

* Use with 50 mercerized cotton or "A" silk in bobbin



Getting Ready to Wind the Bobbin

threading the machine

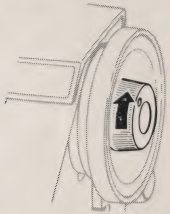
Your sewing machine sews with two threads. The upper thread comes from the spool and is threaded through the eye of the needle. The lower thread comes from the bobbin, the small spool that you wind using the machine. It is best to wind the bobbin before threading the needle.

THE BOBBIN THREAD

Winding the Bobbin

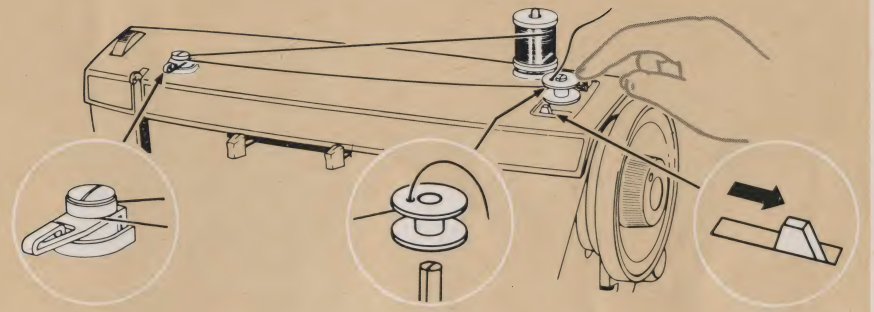
1. Raise the presser foot and turn hand wheel toward you until needle is at its highest position.
2. Loosen hand wheel knob by turning it toward you with the right hand while holding hand wheel with the left hand.
3. Open slide plate just enough to make bobbin accessible and lift out bobbin.
4. Close slide plate.

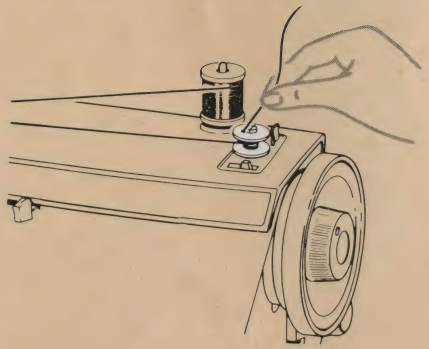
5. Place thread spool on spool pin over the felt. Lead thread around bobbin-winder tension disc and through small hole in bobbin *(from inside out).*
6. Place bobbin on spindle and move bobbin-winder lever to right.
7. Hold thread end as shown and start the machine. Cut off thread end after a few coils have been wound.
8. When required amount of thread has been wound (winding will stop when bobbin is full), stop the machine and cut connecting thread.
9. Move bobbin-winder lever to left and remove bobbin from spindle.
10. Hold hand wheel and tighten hand wheel knob.

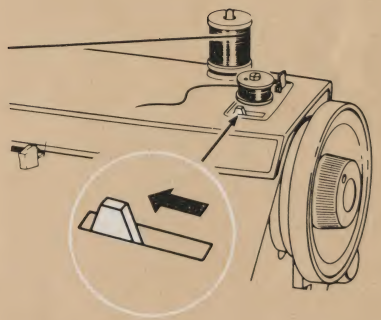


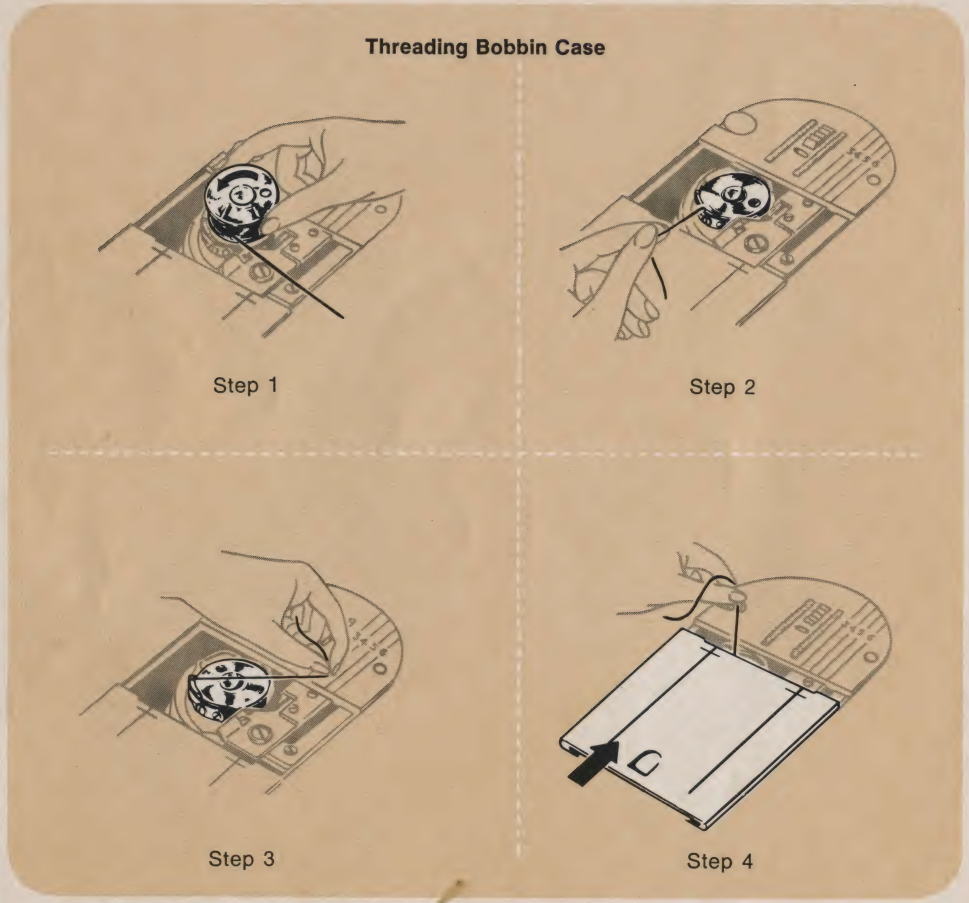
Tightening Hand Wheel Knob

Winding the Bobbin









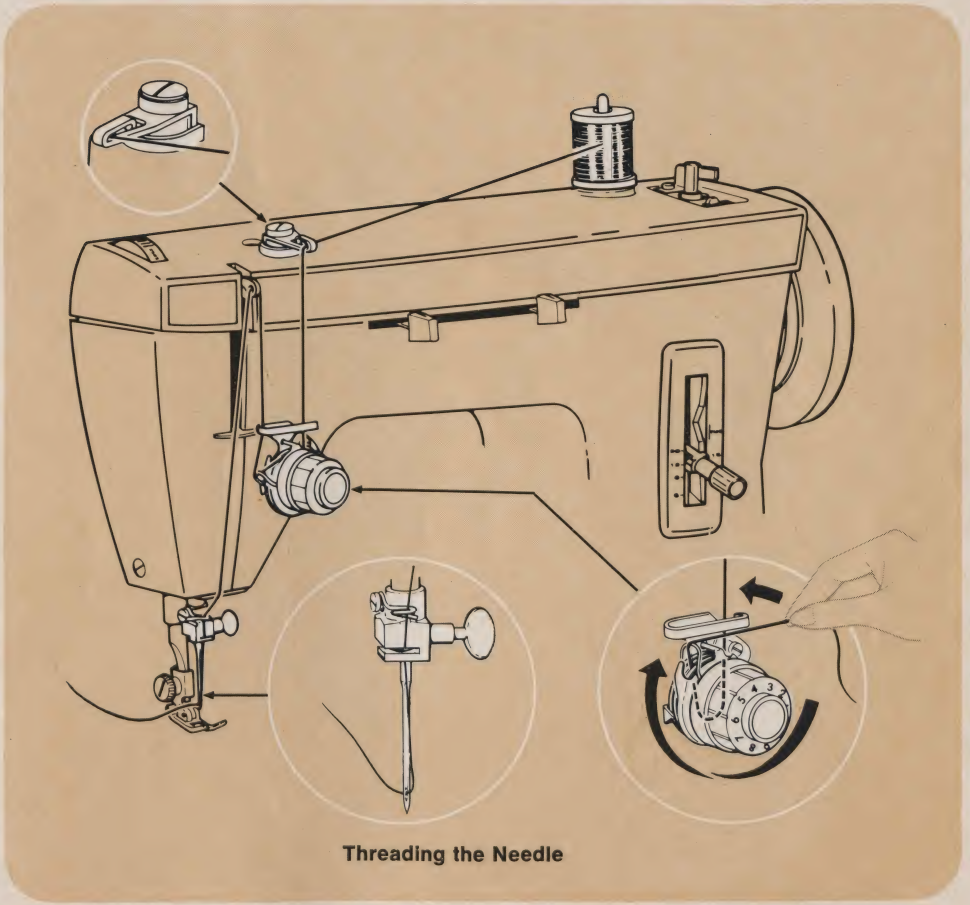
Threading the Bobbin Case

1. Hold bobbin so that thread unwinds in the direction shown, and put bobbin into bobbin case.
2. Pull thread into notch and draw it back under the tension spring.
3. Pass thread over second notch and draw approximately four inches of thread diagonally across the bobbin.
4. Close slide plate, allowing thread to enter slot between the throat plate and slide plate.

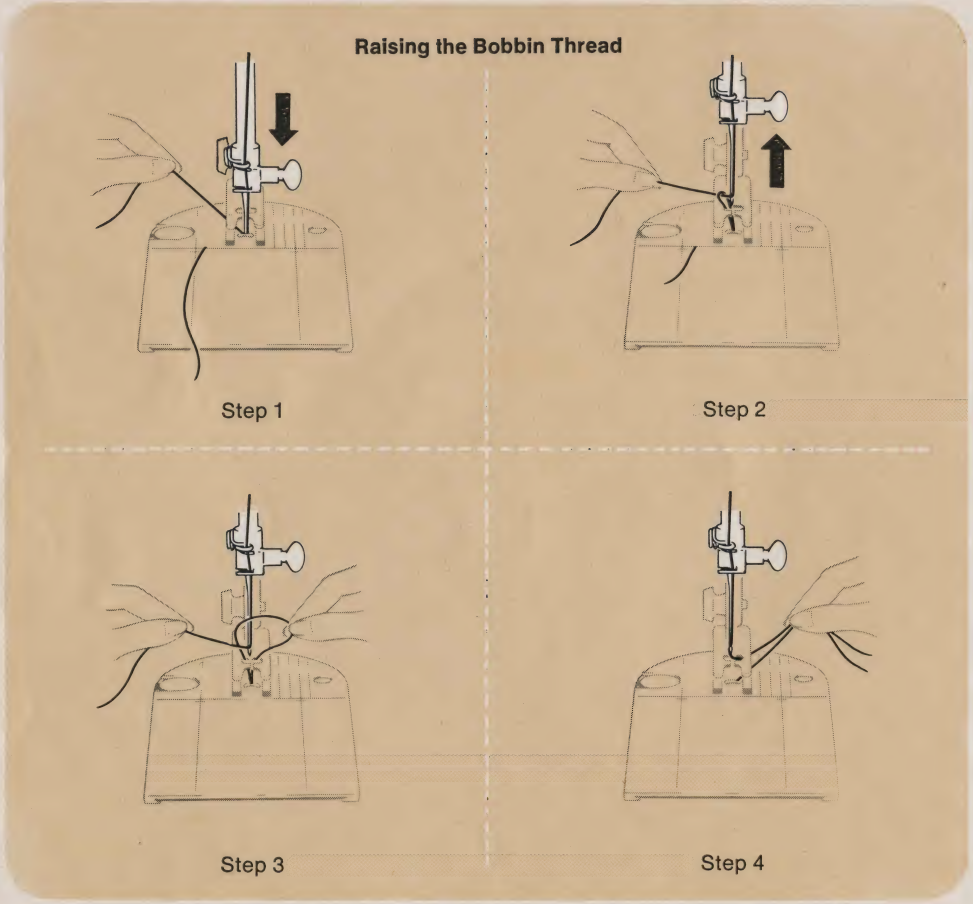
THE NEEDLE THREAD

1. Raise presser-foot lifter to release needle-thread tension discs.
2. Place spool of thread on spool pin over the spool pin felt.
3. Turn hand wheel toward you to raise the needle to its highest position.
4. Lead thread through all threading points as shown, making sure to:

- Hold thread taut while threading tension discs.
- Thread the tension discs by leading thread down behind the thread guide, between and around tension discs, and up under spring on left side of assembly. Pull thread gently up and to the right, lifting the spring and allowing thread to slip into spring thread guard. Then lead thread up behind thread guide.
- Thread take-up lever from right to left.
- Lead thread through all remaining threading points.
- Thread the needle from *front* to back. and draw about four inches of thread through eye of needle.



Threading the Needle



RAISING THE BOBBIN THREAD

Now that you have wound the bobbin and threaded the needle, you will need to raise the bobbin thread through the hole in the throat plate.

1. Hold needle thread lightly with the left hand and turn hand wheel slowly toward you so that needle enters throat plate.
2. Continue turning hand wheel and holding needle thread until needle rises and brings up bobbin thread in a loop.
3. Undo the loop with your fingers.
4. Place both needle and bobbin threads under the presser foot and draw them to back of machine.

...You are now ready to sew

3 Straight Stitching

Before you move the selectors to set your machine for straight stitching, turn the hand wheel toward you until the needle is above the throat plate.

setting selectors

- Set stitch width selector at ¦ (straight stitch)
- Set needle position selector at ⊥ (center)

adjusting selectors

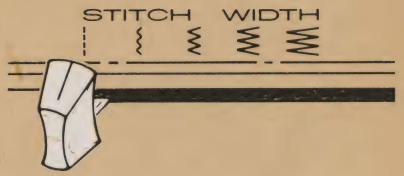
REGULATING PRESSER-FOOT PRESSURE

The pressure dial regulates the pressure that the presser foot exerts on the fabric. Correct pressure is important because it enables the fabric to feed smoothly and evenly. The **NORM** (normal) setting is an all-purpose setting that can be used for a wide variety of fabrics of different weights and textures. Intermediate notched settings above and below **NORM** are also provided. When you need extra control to sew very heavy fabrics, use the **MAX** (maximum) setting.

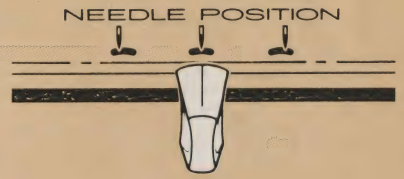
Lower the presser foot before setting pressure.

- **To increase pressure,** turn dial from **NORM** toward **MAX.**
- **To decrease pressure,** turn dial from **NORM** toward **DARN.**
- **For darning,** set dial on **DARN.**

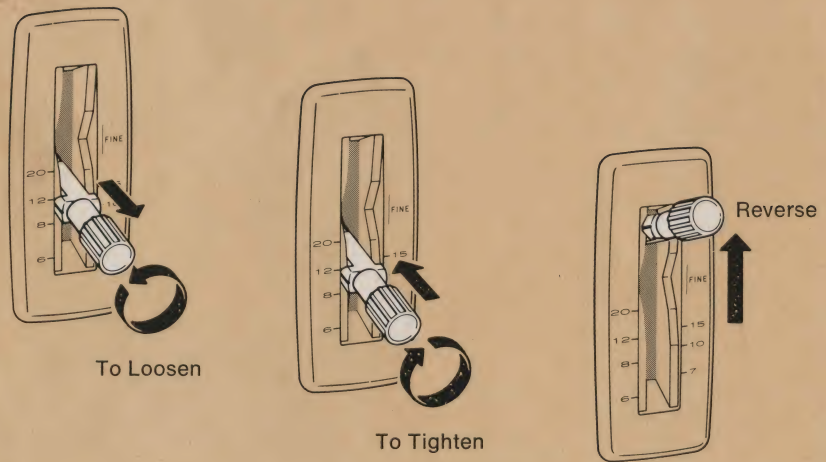
Regulating Presser-Foot Pressure



Stitch Width



Needle Position



Setting Stitch Length

SETTING STITCH LENGTH

The stitch length selector does two jobs: it regulates the length of stitches, and it lets you sew either forward or in reverse. The numbers **6** to **20** on the indicator plate represent the number of forward stitches per inch; *the higher the number, the shorter the stitch.* Generally, longer stitches are best for heavy fabric; shorter stitches best for lightweight fabric and curved seams.

The **FINE** area is used for the adjustment of zig-zag satin stitching (see page 20).

To Set Stitch Length

- Loosen thumb screw by turning it to the left as far as it will go, at the same time move the selector to its lowest position.
- Turn thumb screw to the right until indicator line on selector is aligned with desired stitch length.

For reverse stitching, raise the selector as far as it will go. (Selector can be raised while machine is sewing.) Lower the selector for forward stitching.

REGULATING THREAD TENSION

Correct tension is important because too much or too little will weaken your seams or cause your fabric to pucker. Make a test sample with the fabric and thread you plan to use and examine it. A perfect stitch will have the needle and bobbin threads locked between the two layers of fabric with no loops on top or bottom and no puckers.

Needle-Thread Tension

The tension dial regulates the degree of tension on your needle thread. Set it according to the type of thread and fabric you use. The numbers on the dial eliminate guesswork in duplicating settings.

If the stitches in your test sample look loose, increase needle-thread tension. If the fabric puckers, decrease tension.

- **To increase tension,** turn dial to higher number.
- **To decrease tension,** turn dial to lower number.

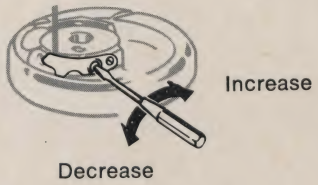
Needle-Thread Tension

Bobbin-Thread Tension

Bobbin-thread tension is controlled by a screw located on the bobbin case. You will seldom need to adjust bobbin-thread tension since it is usually possible to obtain the correct balance by adjusting needle-thread tension alone.

On those rare occasions when it becomes necessary to adjust the bobbin-thread tension, use the small screwdriver. A very slight turn on the screw nearest the thread slot on the bobbin case will produce a noticeable change in bobbin-thread tension.

- **To increase tension,** turn screw clockwise.
- **To decrease tension,** turn screw counterclockwise.



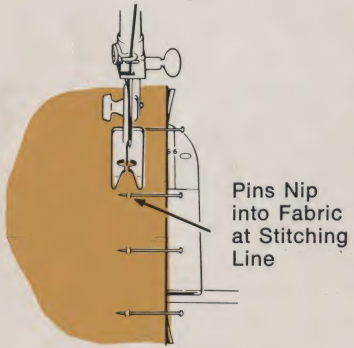
Bobbin-Thread Tension

sewing a seam

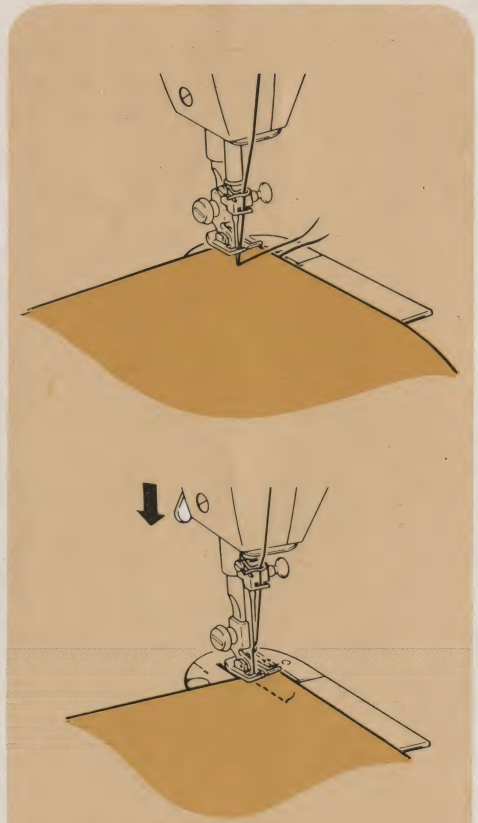
PIN BASTING

Pin basting is a time-saver and can be used when you sew easy-to-handle fabric. Use fine pins and place them:

- On top of the fabric (never on the underside in contact with the feed).
- At right angles to the stitching line.
- Just nipping into the fabric at the stitching line (never extending under both sides of the presser foot).



Pin Placement



Starting a Seam

STARTING A SEAM

1. Set stitch length selector for length of stitch desired and raise the presser foot.
2. Place fabric under presser foot and align right edge with one of the seam guidelines on the throat plate (as described on the following page).
3. Lower the presser foot.
4. Backstitch to the edge of the fabric for reinforcement by raising the stitch length selector.
5. Lower the stitch length selector for forward stitching.

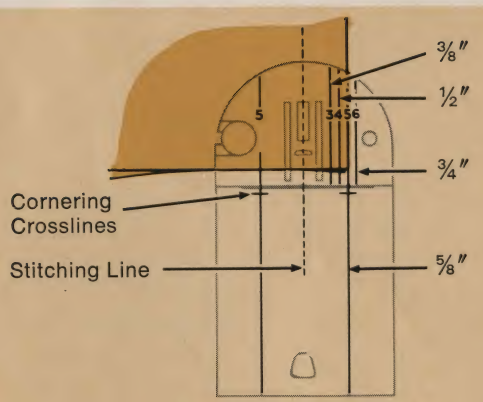
KEEPING THE SEAM STRAIGHT

To keep the seam straight, use one of the numbered guidelines on the throat plate. The numbers indicate distance, in eighths of an inch, from the needle. If you want a $^{5}/_{8}$-inch seam, for example, line up your fabric with the number 5 guideline. Note that both number 5 guidelines are extended on the slide plate for your convenience; the crosslines serve as cornering guides when stitching a square corner.

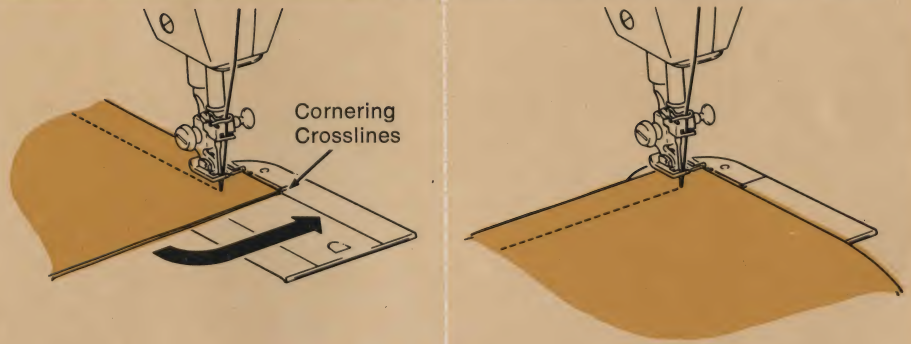
TURNING SQUARE CORNERS

To turn a square corner $^{5}/_{8}$ inch from the fabric edge, you need not measure or mark the seam.

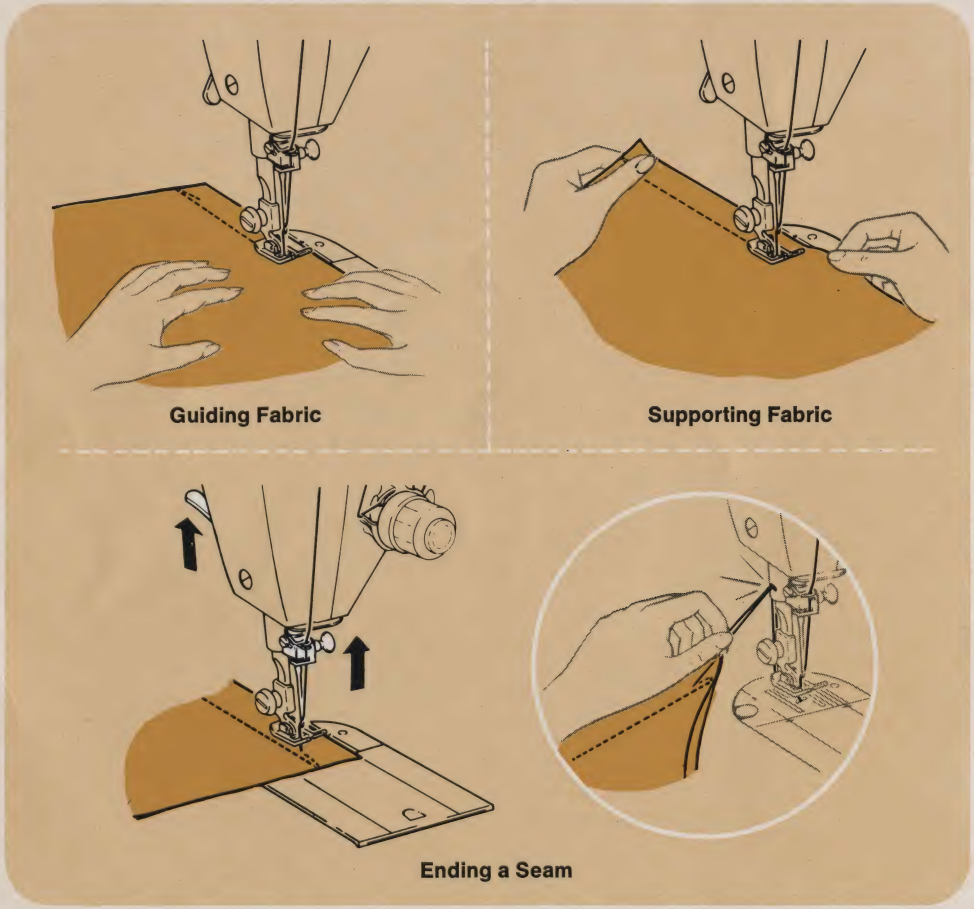
1. Line up fabric with right or left guideline 5 on throat plate. Stitch, slowing speed as you approach corner.
2. Stop stitching with needle down, when bottom edge of fabric reaches cornering crosslines on slide plate.
3. Raise presser foot and turn the fabric on the needle, bringing bottom edge of fabric in line with guideline 5.
4. Lower the presser foot and stitch in new direction.



Keeping the Seam Straight



Turning Square Corners



Guiding Fabric

Supporting Fabric

Ending a Seam

GUIDING AND SUPPORTING FABRIC

Most fabrics need only to be guided in front of the presser foot. Some fabrics, however, require support while being stitched. Filmy sheers, panné velvet and tricots, for example, need to be held taut in *front* and *back* of the presser foot while being sewn.

To guide and support knit and stretch fabrics, refer to page 21.

REINFORCING END OF SEAM

1. Stitch to the fabric edge.
2. Raise stitch length selector and backstitch 1/2 inch to reinforce the end of the seam.
3. Raise presser foot and remove fabric by drawing it to the back and left.
4. Cut threads on thread cutter at rear of presser bar.

4 Zig-Zag Stitching

how to set selectors

STITCH WIDTH SELECTOR

Before moving selector, make sure needle is out of the fabric.

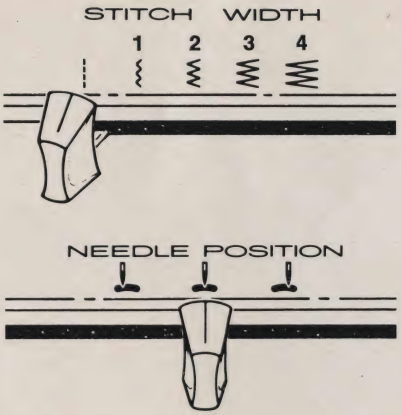
To produce a plain zig-zag stitch, the stitch width selector is moved from its straight stitch position ¦ to any of its other four positions. The further you move the selector lever toward the right, the wider your stitch will be.

For your convenience, the numbers **1, 2, 3,** and **4** will be used throughout this book where instructions require stitch width settings.

NEEDLE POSITION SELECTOR

Before moving selector, make sure needle is out of the fabric.

Most of your zig-zag stitching will be done in center ( ) needle position. Left ( ) and right ( ) settings are used for special stitch placement, as in button sewing.



Setting Selectors

ADJUSTING STITCH LENGTH

(See illustrations on next page.)

Any stitch length setting from **6** to **20** will give you an open zig-zag stitch. The lower the number, the more open, or farther apart, your stitches will be.

The **FINE** area is used for the adjustment of zig-zag satin stitching, a series of closely spaced plain zig-zag stitches that form a smooth, satin-like surface. (Turn to next page for satin stitching.)

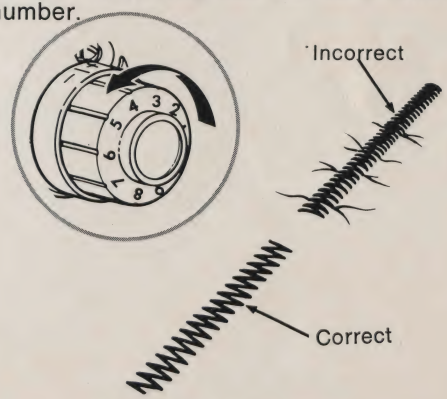
ADJUSTING PRESSER-FOOT PRESSURE

(Turn to page 13 for instructions.)

ADJUSTING NEEDLE-THREAD TENSION

Zig-zag stitching requires less needle-thread tension than straight stitching. Make a test sample with the fabric and thread you plan to use so that you can adjust the tension properly. The stitches should lie flat against the fabric without causing the fabric to pucker.

If the stitches are not flat and the fabric is puckered, lower the needle-thread tension by turning the dial to a lower number.



Adjusting Thread Tension

Adjusting Stitch Length

satin stitching

When you wish to produce a satin stitch, for applique and bar tacks for example, make a test sample first so you can adjust stitch length and thread tension properly. Soft fabrics may require a backing to ensure a firm stitch. Crisp organdy or lawn is suitable for this purpose.

Selector Settings and Accessory

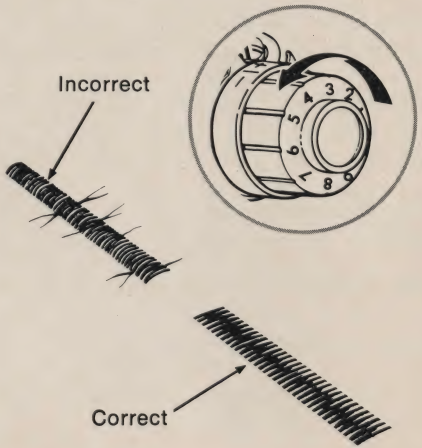
- Needle Position:
- Stitch Width: **1** to **4**
- Stitch Length: **FINE** (above **20**)
- Special Purpose Foot

ADJUSTING STITCH LENGTH

1. Move stitch length selector to **20** (the beginning of the **FINE** area).
2. Run the machine at a slow speed and gradually tighten thumb screw by turning it to the right until stitches are closely spaced and form a smooth surface.

ADJUSTING THREAD TENSION

Satin stitching requires less tension than straight stitching or open zig-zag stitching. Furthermore, the wider the stitch, the lighter the tension on the thread must be. Notice the stitching on your sample. If the fabric is puckered, lower the needle-thread tension by turning the tension dial to a lower number.



Adjusting Thread Tension

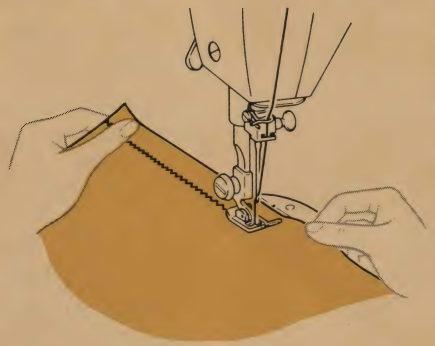
5 Sewing the Professional Way

stretchable seams

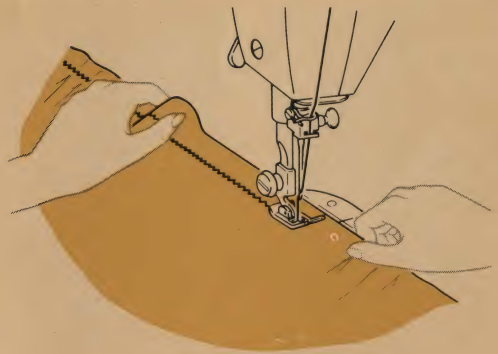
GUIDING AND SUPPORTING FABRIC

Most fabrics of stretch or knit construction need only to be guided in front of the presser foot. Some fabrics, however, require support while being stitched.

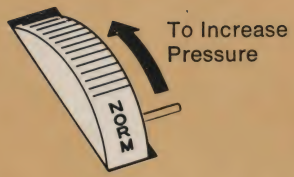
- For nylon tricot, ciré, panné velvet, and similar synthetic knits, apply *gentle* tension by holding fabric taut in front and back of the presser foot as you sew.
- For elasticized fabric, stretch lace, and knits with an unusual amount of elasticity, apply *firm* tension in front and back of the presser foot to stretch the seams as the stitches are being placed.



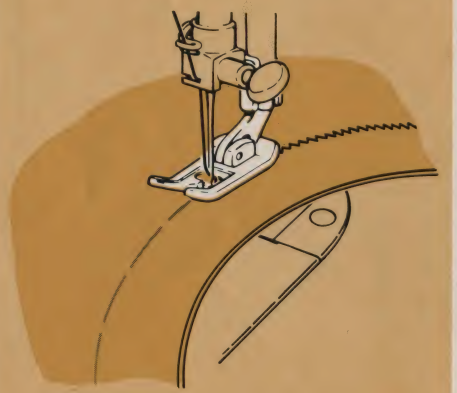
Applying Gentle Tension



Applying Firm Tension



Adjusting Presser-Foot Pressure



Plain Stretch Seams

ADJUSTING PRESSER-FOOT PRESSURE

Generally, fabrics of knit and stretch construction require heavier presser-foot pressure than lightweight fabrics to enable the fabric to feed smoothly and evenly.

With pressure dial set at **NORM** (normal), place sample of your fabric under the presser foot. Lower the presser foot and start the machine. If the fabric is not feeding smoothly and evenly, turn pressure dial from **NORM** to a setting toward **MAX** (maximum) until correct fabric feeding is attained.

PLAIN STRETCH SEAMS

- Stitch Width: **1**
- Needle Position:
- Stitch Length: **15** to **20**
- General Purpose Foot

A narrow, closely spaced plain zig-zag stitch is ideal for seaming knit and stretch fabrics. It can be used in place of straight stitching to retain fabric elasticity and is particularly appropriate for underarm and crotch seams where stretch and give are essential.

Stitch and press seam edges open as when using a straight stitch. Where a narrow seam edge is desired, stitch along the seamline, trim seam allowance in half after stitching, and finish seam edges by overcasting with a medium-wide zig-zag stitch at an open stitch length.

ATTACHING ELASTIC

- Stitch Width: **1** to **4**
- Needle Position:
- Stitch Length: About **20**
- General Purpose Foot

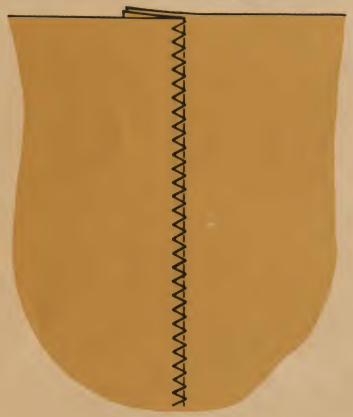
Elastic will remain stretchable when it is attached with the plain zig-zag stitch.

The flexible joining produced by this stitch allows elastic banding to be stitched under, over or between fabric layers, making it particularly useful in construction of lingerie and swimsuits.

To Attach Waistline Elastic

1. Fit elastic for desired waistline snugness, allowing one inch for joining. Lap ends and join with plain zig-zag stitching.
2. Divide elastic band and garment waistline into quarters or eighths. Place elastic over fabric and pin the two together at these points.
3. Take a few stitches to anchor elastic to fabric, then stretch elastic between pins as you sew, using both hands to hold elastic taut in front and back of the presser foot.

Attaching Elastic with Zig-Zag Stitch



Method #1

LINGERIE SEAMS

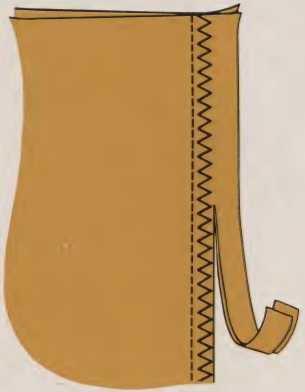
To make seams in lingerie durable and flexible, use a combination of straight and plain zig-zag stitching. Make a test sample to help you decide which of the following methods is most appropriate for your fabric and garment. Method #1 is particularly suitable for $^{5}/_{8}$-inch bias seams in woven fabric, and method #2 is best for seams in nylon tricot.

Method #1 — For $^{5}/_{8}$-inch Seam

- Straight-stitch the seam on wrong side of fabric.
- Press both seam allowances in the same direction.
- From the right side, topstitch with narrow zig-zag stitching (stitch width **1** or **2**), letting the stitching alternately enter the seamline and seam thickness.

Method #2 — For a Narrow Seam

- Allow for a $^{5}/_{8}$-inch seam allowance.
- Straight-stitch the seamline on wrong side of fabric.
- Place a line of medium-wide, open, plain zig-zag stitching close to the straight stitching. (Stitch width **2** to **3**, stitch length about **20**).
- Trim away excess fabric close to stitching to produce a narrow seam edge.



Method #2

sewing special fabrics

LEATHER-LOOK VINYL

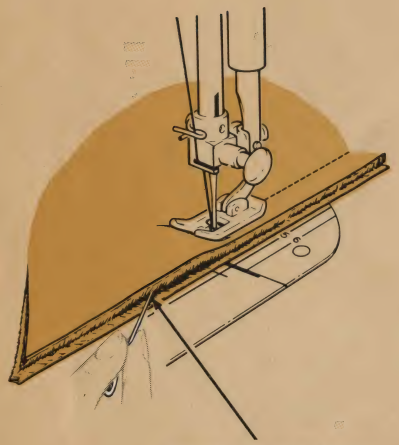
- Use masking tape or zipper adhesive tape instead of pins or basting to hold seams, zippers and hems in place for stitching.
- Use a long stitch (**8** to **10** stitches per inch). A short stitch may cut fabric.
- Sew with a steady, even pace and stitch accurately. Seams cannot be ripped out without leaving needle marks in the fabric.
- The shiny side of some vinyls tends to stick to metal surfaces. Use a strip of tissue paper between the fabric and metal machine surfaces to prevent this. Other remedies include dusting fabric with talcum powder or wiping it with a damp sponge.
- Reinforce button and buttonhole areas with interfacing. Bound buttonholes are the best choice for vinyls with knit backing.
- Topstitching holds seams and garment edges smooth and flat and adds a decorative note.
- For sharp points on collars and lapels, take one or two stitches diagonally *across* the point to allow enough space to enclose the seam edge smoothly.

CIRÉ (Wet-Look Taffeta and Tricot)

- Do not use pins in any area of the garment that will be visible when completed.
- Use masking tape or zipper adhesive tape instead of pins or basting to hold seams, zippers and hems in place for stitching.
- Stitch accurately; seams cannot be ripped out because needle marks remain in fabric.
- Sew seams under gentle tension by holding fabric slightly taut at front and back of needle.
- Stitch ciré taffeta with a fairly long stitch (**8** to **10** straight stitches per inch) and use an enclosed edge finish for seams and hems.
- Stitch ciré knits with a medium-length stitch (**12** straight stitches per inch) and use a fine ball-point needle.
- Machine-worked buttonholes (as well as bound buttonholes) can be made in ciré fabric. Always use an interfacing and make sure the closed plain zig-zag stitches do not cut the fabric.

Take One or Two Stitches Diagonally Across the Point

Turning a Sharp Corner on Leather-Look Vinyl



Smoothing Pile Away from Seam Allowance

Stitching Deep-Pile Fabrics (Fake Fur)

DEEP-PILE FABRICS (Fake Fur)

- Pin, rather than baste, seams. Place pins at short intervals at right angles to the seamline. Pins with colored heads are easier to see and remove.
- Sew in direction of nap.
- Stitch with a fairly long machine stitch (8 to 10 straight stitches per inch) and use polyester/cotton thread in a size 14 or 16, Catalog 2020 needle.
- As seam is stitched, smooth pile *away* from seam allowance with a darning needle or embroidery pin.
- After stitching seams with a $^{5}/_{8}$-inch seam allowance, use small hand scissors to shear pile from entire seam allowance to reduce bulk.
- Stitch $^{1}/_{4}$-inch pre-shrunk tape into neckline and shoulder seams for stability and reinforcement.
- Leather and leather-look fabrics complement fur fabrics. Use them for bound buttonholes and easy button loops.
- Coat hems are less bulky if narrow and finished with a three-inch fabric facing or grosgrain ribbon.
- Slash through the center fold of darts and finger-press open, or stitch with a narrow, plain zig-zag stitch and trim away excess fabric after stitching.

VELVET AND VELVETEEN

- Use a light pressure setting to prevent crushing pile.
- Mark and baste with silk thread.
- Use a Catalog 2020, size 11 needle and a fine thread for seaming. "A" silk or nylon thread is recommended for velvet.
- Always stitch in the direction of the nap.
- Pin or hand-baste seams and sew under gentle tension by holding fabric slightly taut in front and back of needle. Extra-long straight seams may be machine-basted with a long, wide, plain zig-zag stitch.
- To sew panné velvet, use a ball-point needle and a shorter-than-normal stitch length (**12** to **15** straight stitches per inch).

construction details

SEAMS IN FABRICS THAT RAVEL

Seam edges support the garment and should be given a durable finish if the fabric is likely to ravel. There are two methods of finishing seams in such fabrics: trimming seam edge or overedging.

Make a test sample first to determine whether method #1 or method #2 best suits your fabric.

Selector Settings and Accessory

- Stitch Width: **3** or **4**
- Needle Position:
- Stitch Length: **8** to **20**, depending on choice of stitch and fabric
- General Purpose Foot

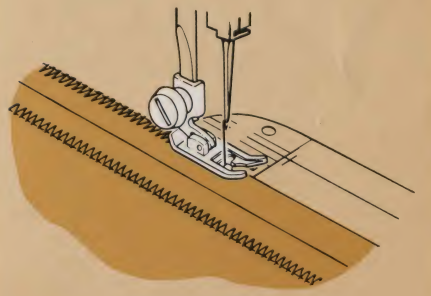
Method #1 — Trimmed Seam Finish

1. Adjust stitch width and length to give you the most "open" stitch that will secure the fabric edge; avoid harsh over-stitching.
2. Stitch near the edge of seam allowance, and trim seam edges evenly after stitching.

Method #2 — Overedged Seam Finish

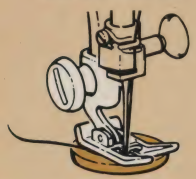
1. Adjust needle-thread tension, stitch width, and stitch length to suit fabric.
2. Trim seam edges evenly.
3. Place trimmed seam under the presser foot and stitch so that the zigzag stitches fall over the edge of the seam allowance.

Trimming Seam Edge

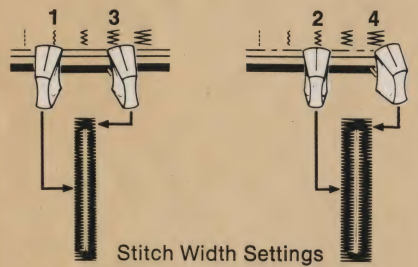


Overedged Seam Finish

Button Sewing



Buttonholes



buttons and buttonholes

BUTTON SEWING

Flat buttons, one inch or more in diameter, can be sewn on by machine using the plain zig-zag stitch. Place raising plate under throat plate as instructed on pages 32 and 33, and use the general purpose presser foot. Set the stitch width selector at ¦ for straight stitching and needle position at (left).

Place button under presser foot and lower the needle into left hole. Lower the foot and move stitch width selector to a medium-wide zig-zag setting. Check stitch width setting by turning hand wheel slowly toward you: increase or decrease width setting to suit hole-spacing of button. Take six or more zig-zag stitches to attach button. Move stitch width selector to ¦ and take a few stitches in left hole of button to fasten threads.

After you have completed your button sewing, open the slide plate and remove the raising plate from under the throat plate.

BUTTONHOLES

- Stitch Width: (see illus.)
- Needle Position:
- Stitch Length: **FINE** (above **20**)
- Special Purpose Foot

Make a test buttonhole on a sample of your fabric. Be sure to duplicate the thickness of the garment and include interfacing if appropriate.

Stitch Width Settings

Use two stitch width settings: one for side stitching and one for bar tacks.

Buttonhole Length

The length of the opening depends on the diameter and thickness of the button. To find the right length, cut a small slit in a scrap of your fabric and gradually enlarge it until the button slips through easily. Add at least $\frac{1}{8}$ inch ($\frac{1}{16}$ inch for each bar tack), and mark the fabric.

Procedure:

Place work under needle, aligning center marking of buttonhole with slot in the presser foot.

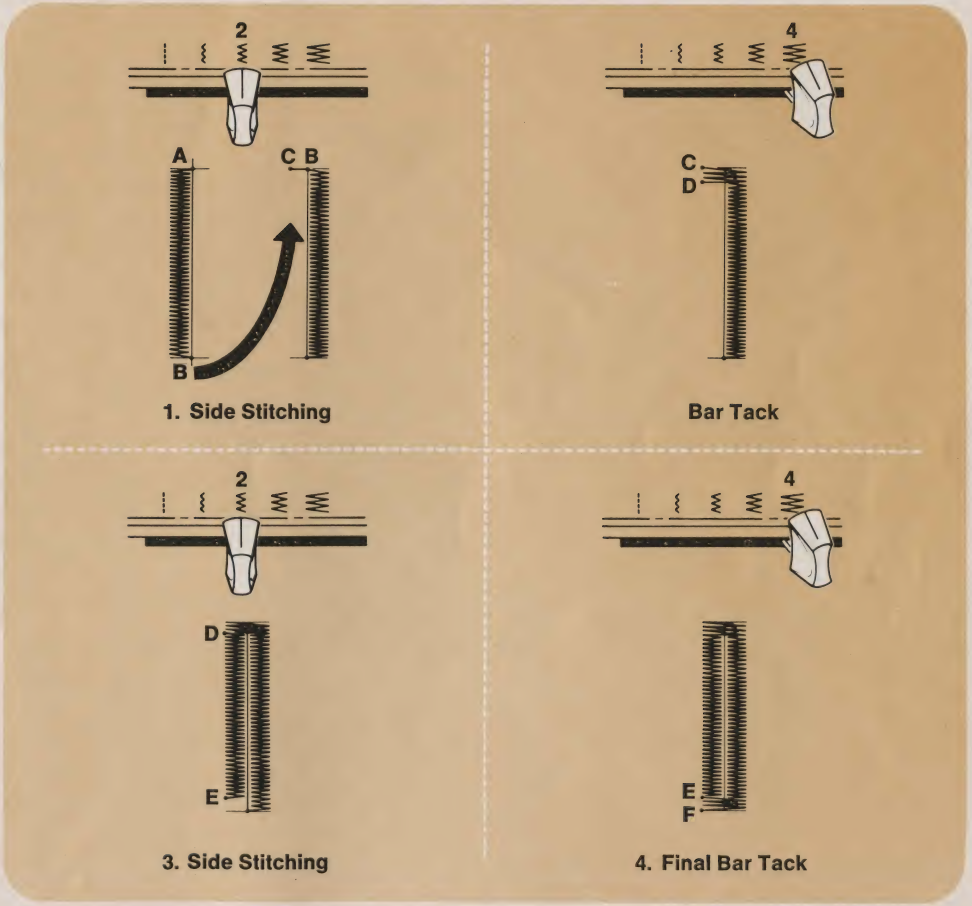
Side Stitching: Set stitch width selector for side stitching. Position needle in fabric at point **A.** Lower foot and stitch to end of marking. Leave needle in fabric at point **B.** Raise foot and pivot work on needle. Lower foot. Take one stitch without changing width setting, bringing work to point **C.**

Bar Tack: Adjust stitch width selector for bar tacks and take at least six stitches. Stop at point **D.**

Side Stitching: Readjust stitch width selector for side stitching. Complete work to point **E.** Leave needle in fabric.

Final Bar Tack: Adjust stitch width selector for bar tacks, and take at least six stitches ending at point **F.**

Fastening Stitch: To secure stitching, move stitch width selector to ¦ and take three stitches. Remove work, draw threads to underside, fasten and trim. Cut opening for button with sharp scissors.



Method #1 — Trimming after Stitching

Method #2 — Stitching after Trimming

decorative satin stitching

APPLIQUE

Applique adds beauty and interest to clothing and household linens. You can create your own design, trace a simple outline from a coloring book, or use a motif cut from a printed fabric. Fabrics of like or different textures combine equally well.

A closely spaced plain zig-zag stitch is used for applique work. Although you may vary stitch width to accommodate fabric weave and texture, never allow the stitch to be too wide. Make a test sample to help you decide which of the following methods is best for your fabric and design.

Preparation

- Baste applique design to fabric; outline design with a short, straight stitch.
- Remove basting and press.
- Attach the special purpose foot.

Method #1 — Trimming after Stitching

1. Set stitch width at desired setting. Adjust stitch length in the **FINE** area of the stitch length control.
2. Outline the entire design with applique stitching.
3. Cut away the fabric on the outer edges of the stitching with embroidery scissors.

Method #2 — Stitching after Trimming

1. Trim outside fabric edges close to straight stitch outline of design.
2. Set stitch width at desired setting. Adjust stitch length in **FINE** area of the stitch length control.
3. Overedge the design with applique stitching. This step will produce a smooth, lustrous finish that requires no additional trimming.

keeping up appearances

MENDING A TEAR

The plain zig-zag stitch is just as useful for mending as it is for creative sewing.

- Stitch Width: **1** to **4**
- Needle Position:
- Stitch Length: **15** to **20**
- General Purpose Foot

1. Trim ragged edges.
2. Place underlay on wrong side of tear for reinforcement. (It is best not to baste or pin the underlay, since you will be bringing the edges of the tear together in the next step.)
3. Stitch on the right side, bringing the edges of the tear together. Shorten stitch length at ends and corners to give extra strength.
4. Trim underlay.

BLANKET BINDING

Often you can make an old blanket look almost new by replacing the binding.

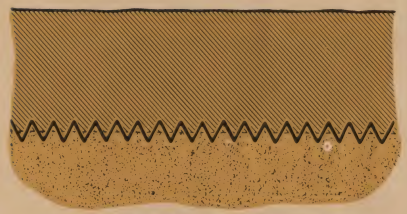
- Stitch Width: **4**
- Needle Position:
- Stitch Length: **15** to **20**
- General Purpose Foot

1. Remove worn binding and baste new binding in place.
2. Turn pressure dial to a setting below normal and increase stitch length, if necessary, so that blanket feeds freely.
3. Stitch, and remove basting.

BAR TACKS

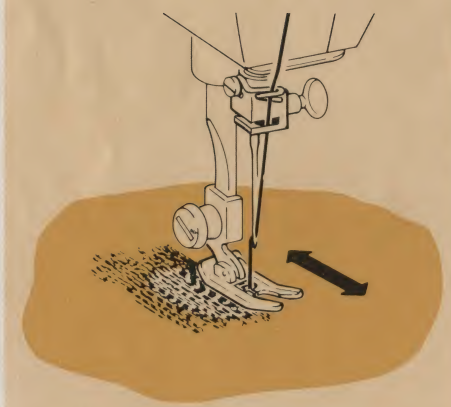
Bar tacks are made with the zig-zag stitch at satin stitch length. Ideal for attaching garters, and securing shoulder straps, belt loops and zipper openings.

Mending a Tear



Blanket Binding

Bar-Tacked Belt Loops



Darning with Presser Foot

DARNING

Worn or torn spots on children's clothes, knits, and household linens can be darned effortlessly and quickly with little practice. You may choose to darn either with or without an embroidery hoop. When greater control is needed, an embroidery hoop is usually best.

Without Embroidery Hoop

- Stitch Width: ¦
- Needle Position: ⊥
- Stitch Length: **12**
- Pressure **DARN**
- General Purpose Foot

1. If area to be darned is open, baste an underlay in place.
2. Place area to be darned under presser foot; lower the foot and start stitching, alternately drawing fabric toward you and pulling it *gently* away from you.
3. Continue this forward and backward motion as you fill the area with parallel lines of stitching. For additional strength, cover area with crosswise lines of stitching.

With Embroidery Hoop

- Stitch Width: ¦
- Needle Position: ⊥
- Stitch Length: In **FINE** area
- Throat Plate Raising Plate
- No Presser Foot
- Presser Bar Lowered

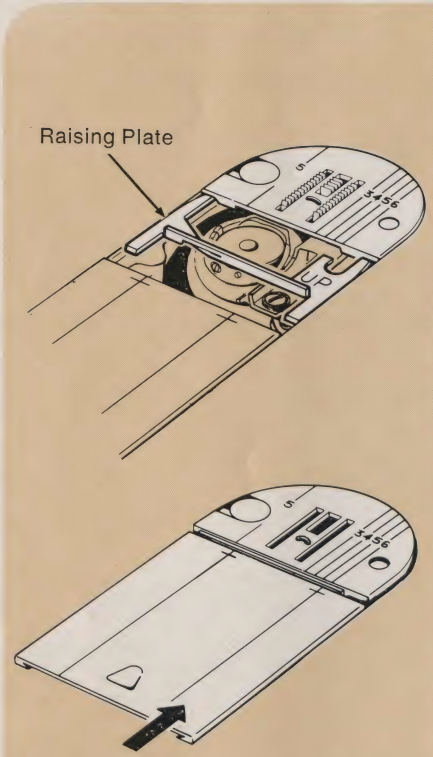
Preparation

1. Remove presser foot as instructed on page 6.
2. Open slide plate, place raising plate into slideway, and close slide plate so that it pushes raising plate under throat plate as shown on page 33.
3. Set stitch length selector in indented area.
4. Trim ragged edges from area to be darned.
5. Center open area in embroidery hoop; pull fabric as taut as possible.
6. Position work under needle and *lower the presser-foot lifter to engage thread tension.*

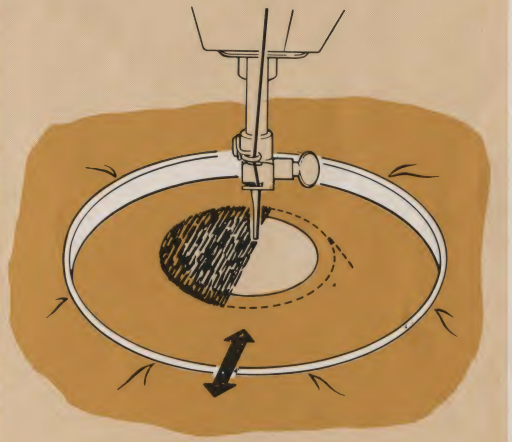
Procedure

1. Hold needle thread loosely with left hand, turn hand wheel toward you, and draw bobbin thread up through fabric. Hold both thread ends, and lower needle into fabric.
2. Reinforce the area to be darned with stitching 1/4 inch from the edge.
3. Stitch across opening, moving hoop under the needle at a slight angle from lower left to upper right. Keep lines of stitching closely spaced and even in length.
4. When opening is filled, cover area with crosswise lines of stitching.

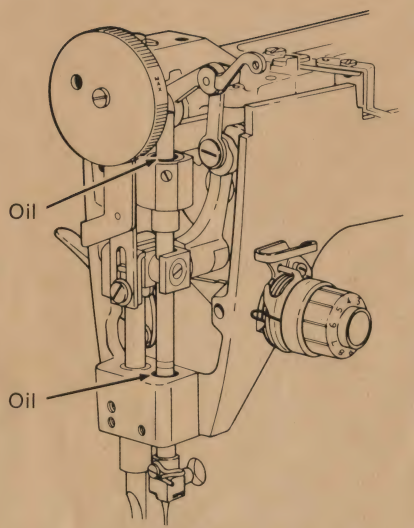
This method of controlling fabric movement with an embroidery hoop may also be used for embroidering and monogramming.



Inserting Raising Plate



Darning with Embroidery Hoop



Oiling the Machine

6 Caring for Your Sewing Machine

cleaning the machine

Your sewing machine will serve you perfectly for many years if you take a few moments of your time to keep it clean. How often you will need to clean the machine will depend on how often you use it.

CAUTION: Before cleaning the machine, disconnect power-line plug from your electrical outlet.

Remove lint or fluff from exposed parts. With a soft cloth, clean:

- Tension discs
- Take-up lever and thread guides
- Presser bar and needle bar
- Bobbin case (if there is excessive lint in the area, remove the bobbin case for cleaning. See page 36 for instructions for removal.)
- Machine surface (If necessary, dampen cloth and use a mild soap.)

Remove face plate (see page 35) and use a small brush to clean area behind face plate.

Remove throat plate (see page 35) and, using a small brush, clean area under throat plate and slide plate.

After cleaning, apply SINGER* oil at points indicated. SINGER oil is specially prepared and does not contain harmful deposits that can interfere with the smooth action of precision parts.

Approximately once every year, remove top cover as instructed on page 37 and clean and lubricate all moving connections in top and bottom of machine to ensure freedom of movement and to protect metal parts from excessive wear. To determine which connections move, turn hand wheel slowly (by hand) while cover is removed.

removing face plate, throat plate, and bobbin case

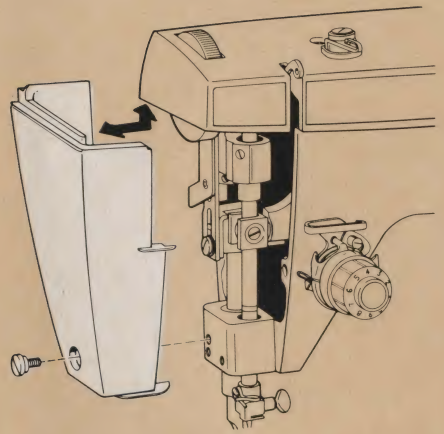
CAUTION: Before removing face plate, throat plate, and bobbin case, disconnect the power-line plug from electrical outlet.

REMOVING AND REPLACING FACE PLATE

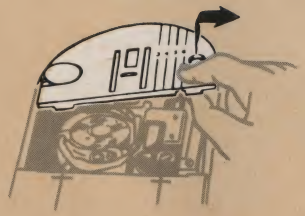
1. Loosen and remove screw; remove face plate by sliding it downward.
2. Replace face plate by sliding top edge up under edge of top cover; replace and tighten screw.

REMOVING AND REPLACING THROAT PLATE

1. Turn hand wheel toward you until needle is at its highest position.
2. Open slide plate; place thumb under right side of throat plate, lift it up and withdraw it to right.
3. Replace throat plate under clamping pin, push it gently to the left, and press down until it snaps into place.

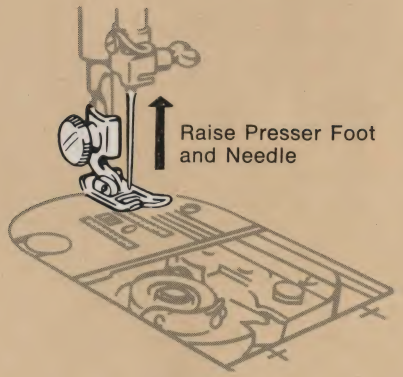


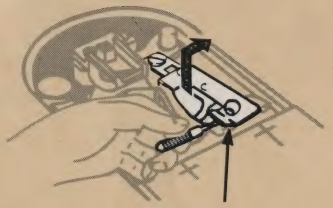
Removing and Replacing Face Plate



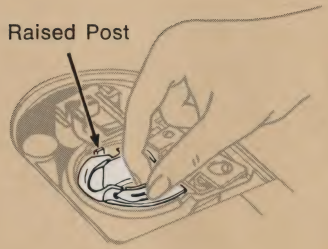
Removing Throat Plate

Replacing Throat Plate





Raise Bobbin Case Holder



Replace Bobbin Case

REMOVING AND REPLACING BOBBIN CASE

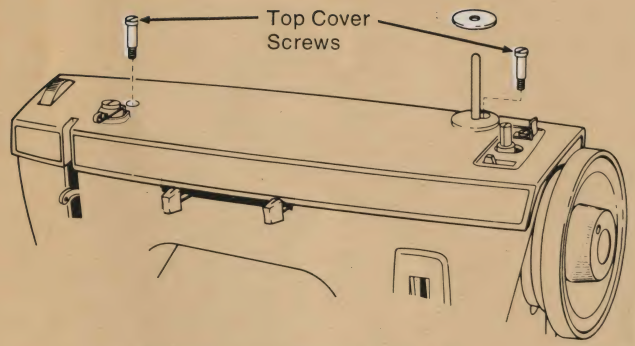
1. Raise needle to its highest position.
2. Open slide plate all the way and remove throat plate as instructed on page 35.
3. Remove bobbin.
4. To remove bobbin case:
   Insert screwdriver under lip of bobbin case holder, and lift up and to the right. Lift out bobbin case.
5. To replace bobbin case:
   Replace bobbin case, guiding notched end under feed onto raised post. Slide bobbin case to the left, engaging rotating ring.
6. Replace throat plate and close slide plate.

removing and replacing top cover

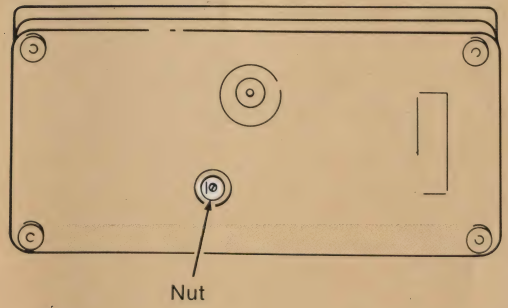
1. Disconnect power-line plug from electrical outlet.
2. Remove spool pin felt. Loosen and remove top cover screws, as illustrated, and lift off top cover.
3. Replace cover, replace and tighten screws. Replace spool pin felt.

removing and replacing carrying case base

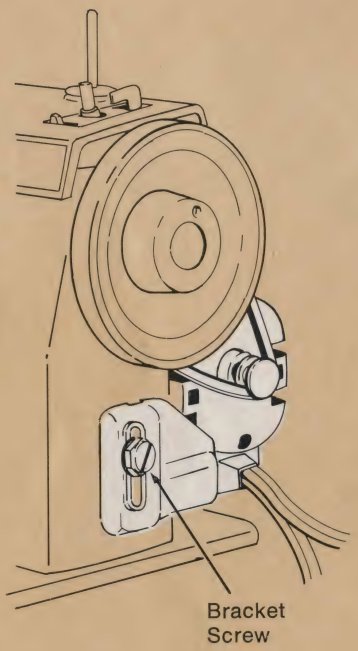
1. Disconnect power-line plug from electrical outlet.
2. Tilt machine back and remove nut that fastens carrying case base to machine.
3. Set machine and base upright, and lift machine up and out of base.
4. Replace by placing machine in base. Turn machine and base over together to replace nut on underside. Tighten nut. Set machine and base upright.



Removing and Replacing Top Cover



Removing and Replacing Carrying Case Base



Adjusting Belt Tension

adjusting the belt tension

Tension on the belt should be just strong enough to keep the belt from slipping. If the belt is too tight, the machine will run slowly, overloading and possibly damaging the motor.

If motor belt needs adjustment

1. Loosen motor bracket screw a full turn.

   To increase belt tension, lower the bracket.

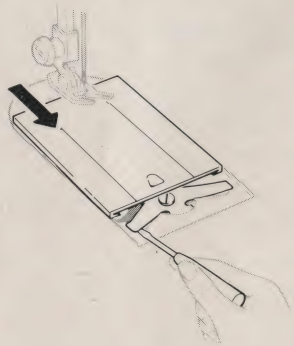
   To decrease belt tension, raise the bracket.

2. Tighten motor bracket screw.

replacing the slide plate

If the slide plate needs replacing:

1. Raise the presser foot and make sure the needle is in its highest position.
2. Place the slide plate in slideway with front edge close to but not covering the retaining spring (as shown).
3. With a small screwdriver, lift ends of spring into the side grooves on underside of plate.
4. Draw the plate gently toward you to fully engage the spring.



Replacing Slide Plate

changing the light bulb

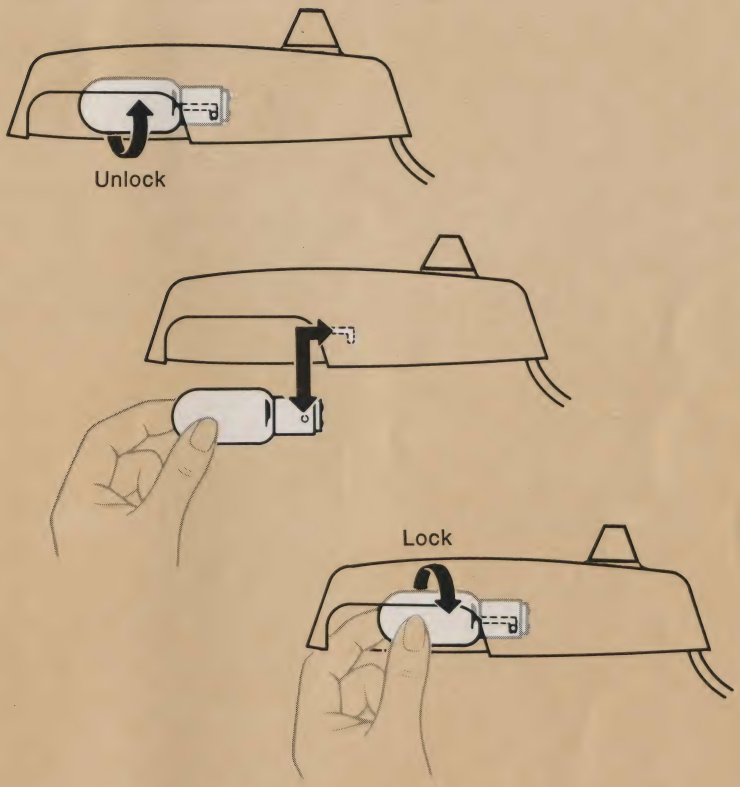
CAUTION: Before changing the light bulb, disconnect power-line plug from your electrical outlet.

REMOVING BULB

Hold light bulb with left hand. Press bulb into socket and at the same time turn bulb over in direction shown to unlock bulb pin. Do not attempt to unscrew the bulb.

REPLACING BULB

Press new bulb into socket, with bulb pin entering slot of socket, and turn it over in direction shown to lock bulb in position.



Changing the Light Bulb

performance checklist

Remember To...

- Plug machine into an electrical outlet.
- Turn hand wheel toward you to position needle and take-up lever.
- Start and finish sewing with the take-up lever in its highest position.
- Test stitch on a fabric sample before starting a sewing job.
- Replace bent or burred needles.
- Lower presser foot before setting pressure dial.
- Tighten hand wheel knob and move bobbin-winder lever to left after winding a bobbin.
- Use a Catalog 2045 Ball-Point (yellow band) needle when sewing synthetic knits, spandex, or elastics.

If Fabric Fails to Feed, Make Sure...

- Presser foot is in down position.
- Pressure dial is adjusted properly for the weight and texture of your fabric.
- Stitch length selector is properly set.
- Hand wheel knob is securely tightened.
- Lint has not accumulated around feed.

Enjoy Sewing!

If you have any questions, please write to:
Department of Sewing Education
The Singer Company
30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10020

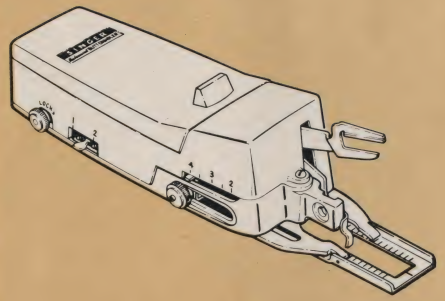
If Thread Breaks, Make Sure...

- Machine is correctly threaded.
- Bobbin case is correctly inserted and threaded.
- Bobbin case area is free of lint and loose thread ends.
- Bobbin and bobbin case are not damaged.
- Needle is straight and securely tightened in clamp.
- Thread is suitable for size of needle.
- Thread is free of slubs and knots.
- Thread is unwinding freely from spool.
- Needle-thread tension is light enough.
- Throat plate needle hole and presser foot are not damaged.

7 FASHION Aids

special accessories for special jobs

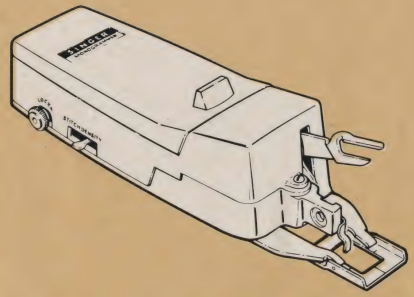
The *Fashion Aids* described on this page and following pages are designed to increase the versatility of your sewing machine. They are part of the complete selection of accessories that is available at your local Singer Sewing Center.



Professional Buttonholer

The *Professional** Buttonholer sews six kinds of buttonholes, plus eyelets, in a wide variety of fabrics. You choose the style and length, and make perfect buttonholes every time.

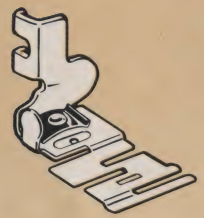
No. 102878



Monogrammer

With the monogrammer, you can stitch $^{3}/_{8}$-inch-high initials to form monograms or names that add a charming individual touch to handkerchiefs, blouse collars, etc.

No. 171269



Edge Stitcher

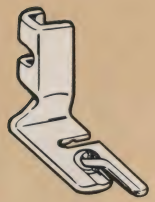
This accessory, used with the straight stitch setting, is ideal for joining and inserting lace, tucking from pin width up to 1/4 inch, French seaming and seam piping, facing, and seam finishing.

No. 36865

Seam Guide

The seam guide will help you to stitch seams of perfectly uniform width. It is especially useful for curved seams or top stitching, when absolute accuracy is required.

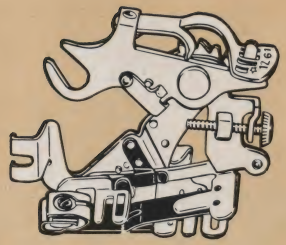
No. 161172



Hemmer Foot

Narrow hems can be turned and stitched in a single operation if you use the hemmer foot. Thus, you can eliminate basting or pinning whenever you are making ruffle edges, lingerie finishes, and the like.

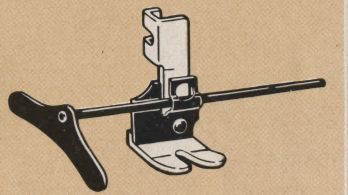
No. 161671



Ruffler

This accessory offers a simple, effective way to make gathered and pleated ruffles. The ruffler is used for straight stitching only.

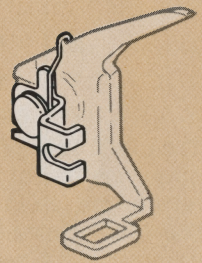
No. 86742



Quilting Foot

The quilting foot is especially well adapted to stitching lightly padded fabrics. It is excellent for the placement of straight stitching in block, floral, or scroll designs. This short, open foot permits following curved lines with ease and accuracy.

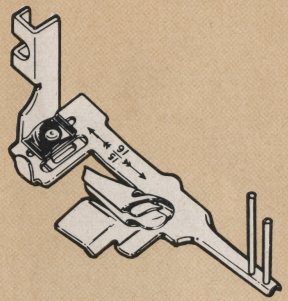
No. 35932



Darning and Embroidery Foot

This foot is recommended for all types of free-motion work. It is ideal for embroidering, monogramming, and decorative designs because the transparent toe fully reveals the line of the design to be followed.

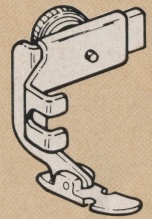
No. 161876



Binder Foot

The binder foot is used to apply ready-made bias tape or unfolded bias binding to an unfinished edge. It can also be used for binding seam edges that might ravel.

No. 81245



Zipper Foot

This foot is used to place stitching close to a raised edge. Thus, it is useful for corded seams as well as zipper insertion. It can be adjusted to the right or left side of the needle. The foot's hinge allows it to ride over pins or seams.

No. 161127

Index

Accessories 6
Adjusting the Belt Tension 38
Applique 30
Attaching Elastic 23
Bar Tacks 31
Blanket Binding 31
Bobbin 6
  Raising Bobbin Thread 12
  Winding 8
Buttonholes 28
Buttons 28
Caring for Your Sewing Machine 34
Choosing Needle and Thread 7
Darning 32
  With Embroidery Hoop 32
  Without Embroidery Hoop 32
Fashion Aids 41
Guiding and Supporting Fabric 18, 21
Sewing Special Fabrics 25
Keeping Seams Straight 17
Lingerie Seams 24
Mending a Tear 31
Needles 6
  Position 3, 13, 19
  Replacement 6
  Threading 11
Pin Basting 16
Plain Stretch Seams 22
Presser Feet 6
  Changing Presser Feet 6
Presser-Foot Pressure 3, 13
Principal Parts 2-5
Reverse Stitching 14
Satin Stitching 20
Seams 16, 21
  Lingerie 24
  Plain Stretch 22
  Straight 16
Stitch Length Selector 3, 14, 20
Stitch Width Selector 3, 13, 19
Straight Stitching 13
  Straight Seams 16
Tension Adjustment 3, 15, 19, 20
  Bobbin Thread 15
  Needle Thread 3, 15, 19, 20
Throat Plate
  Raising Plate 33
  Removing and Replacing 35
Zig-Zag Stitching 19
  Needle Positions 19
  Stitch Length 19
  Stitch Width 19
  Thread Tension 19

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GUARANTEE

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THIS GUARANTEE does not apply to parts requiring replacement owing to natural wear or to abuse or negligence of the user or in the event the machine is serviced by other than a SINGER representative or Approved Dealer or with parts other than those supplied by The Singer Company.

IN ADDITION to the above guarantee of parts, each machine will be inspected and adjusted whenever necessary without charge for labor for a period of one year from date of purchase.

THIS GUARANTEE is effective only with respect to the person making the purchase from The Singer Company or one of its Approved Dealers. The original Sales Agreement, or Cash Receipt, must be presented to obtain the benefits of the guarantee. AGREEMENTS inconsistent with the foregoing shall be void and of no effect.

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